

*Iberia, St. Charles and Teche Health Centers to Benefit from Grants*  
July 1, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - While attending the grand opening of the Pierre Part Community Health Center today, U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced the Franklin-based Teche Action Network, which includes the Pierre Part clinic, will be receiving an additional \$726,105 in Recovery Act funding. The grant is part of the \$2.2 million in Capital Improvement Program (CIP) grants that three community health centers in South Louisiana will be receiving through the Recovery Act, also known as the Stimulus. The St. Charles Community Health Center and Iberia Comprehensive Community Health Center will also be receiving CIP grants, which are used for the purchase of new equipment or health information technology systems, as well as support for construction, repair and renovation of health care facilities.

**"Too often, community health centers lack the funding they need for updating their equipment and technology, causing the quality of their care to suffer," Rep. Melancon said. "I am pleased to announce today that three health centers in my district are receiving stimulus funds to purchase new equipment and upgrade their health information technology systems, enabling them to provide the most up-to-date and efficient service to their patients. By reducing the time spent filling out paperwork, this new technology will help doctors at these south Louisiana health centers focus more on tending to the needs of their patients and providing the best care possible."**

In addition to the CIP grant announced today, the Recovery Act has provided \$1.3 million for the Pierre Part Health Center, also known as the Larrison Family Health Center. This funding has helped it become a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and join the Teche Action Network, based in Franklin. Being designated an FQHC makes the Pierre Part clinic eligible for additional federal funding to treat uninsured and underinsured Louisianans. CIP grants help community health centers serve more patients, stimulate new jobs and meet the increase in demand for primary health care services among the uninsured and underserved populations.

**"I would like to thank the Congressman for his support in voting for monies that made this grant possible," said Dr. Gary Wiltz, CEO of Teche Action Board. "The pay off will be improved efficiency, which will increase patient care by increasing patient safety."**

**Dr. Wiltz continued, "The idea behind electronic health records is to decrease errors and prevent avoidable mistakes. It is extremely important to have access to electronic health records, especially in South Louisiana where we are prone to hurricanes; it allows us the opportunity to house the records electronically, to ensure that records will not be loss due to rain, wind and/or structure damages caused by hurricanes. In addition to providing improvements to pre-existing facilities, we are pleased to announce the grand-opening of the newest facility of Teche Action located in Pierre Part."**

The following community health centers in the Third Congressional District will receive grant funding:

Community Health Center

Town

Grant Amount

Iberia Comprehensive Community Health Center

New Iberia

\$805, 485

St. Charles Community Health Center

Luling

\$673,535

Teche Action Board

Franklin

\$726,105

Total for 3

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Nationwide, more than \$850 million in Capital Improvement Program grants will be funded through the Recovery Act. These grants will help more than 1,500 Community Health Centers around the country with much needed capital improvements. Additionally, the grants will address immediate and pressing health center facility and equipment needs and increase access to health care for millions of Americans. Twenty-four Louisiana health centers are receiving these CIP grants.

Community health centers in Louisiana have been awarded over \$25.2 million in federal grants funded by the Recovery Act since the legislation was passed in February. This funding has helped these community health centers better provide primary health care to an estimated 48,870 uninsured and underinsured Louisianans. Charges for services at community health centers are set according to income, and only nominal fees are collected from the neediest patients. Nationally, about 39% of community health center patients have no health insurance at all.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) for previous announcements about Recovery Act funding for health centers in South Louisiana.

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